



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation and Recreation
with MassHighway**

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation Design

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Hopkins Academy High School Auditorium

131 Russell Street (Route 9), Hadley, MA

This public information meeting is intended to introduce the community to the Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation project, provide a presentation on existing conditions and invite comments that can be considered during the design process.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has contracted with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to provide engineering and design services for this project. The DCR's project management team will host the presentation by Stantec's staff. The meeting will include an introduction, a PowerPoint presentation and a discussion period.

The discussion period will follow a format of Guiding Components in order to organize comments into broad categories or themes. The guiding components will include the following topics,

- Safety
- Path and Infrastructure Repairs
- Accessibility
- Trail and User Experience
- Cultural and Historical Elements
- Natural Resources and Wildlife
- Construction Issues
- Maintenance and Operations

DESIGN PROJECT SCOPE:

The DCR and MassHighway are pleased to announce plans for rehabilitation of the oldest sections of the 11-mile Norwottuck Rail Trail which extends from Northampton through Amherst, MA. Funding for the design comes from a state and federal partnership among DCR, MassHighway and the Federal Highway Administration. Funding for the planned \$4 million construction phase will come from federal and state funds set aside by Congressman John Olver in a federal transportation bill and by MassHighway. The design phase is scheduled for completion in summer of 2009.

The scope of work for upgrades and safety improvements includes,

- Assess environmental resources and pavement to determine the best method for replacing the existing trail surface.
- Assess existing plant communities and develop a Vegetation Management Plan to address invasive and hazard trees, prevent future tree root damage to pavement as well as enhance and protect valuable habitat areas.
- Evaluate and address impacts by beaver and muskrat to the trail embankment.
- Improve safety and universal accessibility (access for people with disabilities) of the trail.
- Improve the condition of bridge decks, tunnels and parking lots.
- Correct drainage and erosion problems.
- Improve trail signage.

Completed site investigation work includes,

- ✓ Aerial- and ground survey of the rail trail corridor
- ✓ Wetland delineation
- ✓ Wildlife & biological assessments
- ✓ Structural and field investigations
- ✓ Geotechnical (soils) report

DESIGN PROJECT SCHEDULE:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ | Design Consultant's Notice to Proceed | April 2008 |
| | Data Collection and Analysis | May – November 2008 |
| ✓ | Public Information Meeting | October 2008 |
| | 25% Design Public Hearing | Winter 2008 - 2009 |
| | 100% Design submission | Spring 2009 |
| | Final Design submission | Summer 2009 |

This design project includes two public meetings. The first is the informal Public Information Meeting to present initial findings on existing conditions and invite comments from the public.

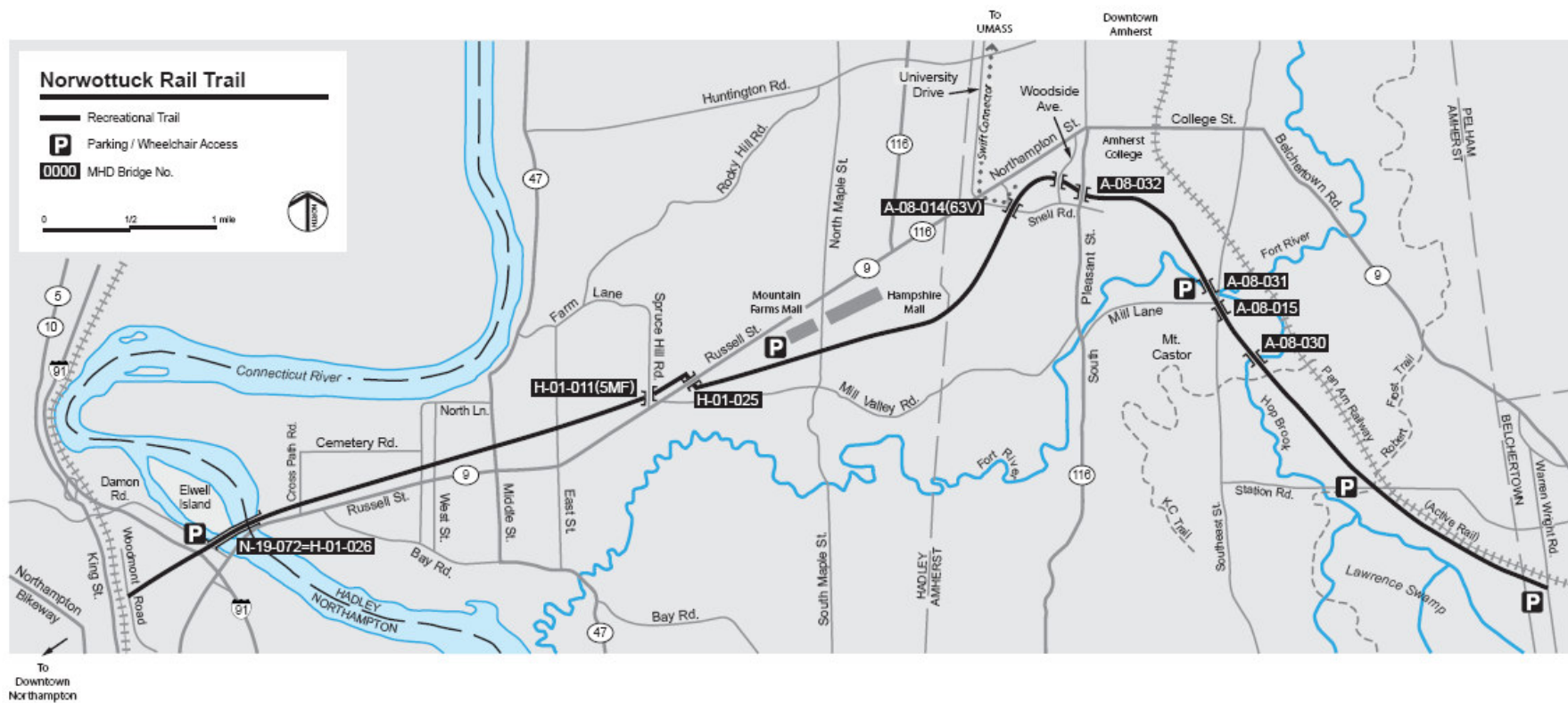
The second meeting will be held at the completion of the 25% design. There will be a formal Public Hearing hosted by MassHighway to present the 25% design and accept comments from the public. The date, time and location for the public hearing are to be determined.

Please visit the project web page at www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/norwottuck to participate in the **Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation Pre-Design Trail User Survey**. The survey will be active between October 29 and December 31, 2008.

To comment on this project, please use the attached written comment sheet and drop it in the comment box tonight or mail to the address provided.

Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation
Attn: Robbin Bergfors
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation
PO Box 66, South Carver, MA 02366

Or, visit the Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation project web page and use the “contact us” link to send us an email.





Adaptive Cycling on the Norwottuck Rail Trail

Notes for trail improvement design

Submitted by Massachusetts DCR Universal Access Program

October 2008

DCRs Adaptive Cycling Program

- **Duration of program:** DCR has been serving people with disabilities on the rail trail with a weekly program since 1999. Also, one day events were conducted once a year from 1996-2002.
- **Program schedule:** Weekly programs are offered from June – September.
- **Weekly attendance:** Average 30-40 people per program day.
- **Yearly Attendance:** Currently serving 500-600 people per year.
- **Types of people served:** those with and without disabilities, individual adults, families, kids, groups, friends, partners, caregivers, accompanying staff. Many come regularly and new faces are typically present at each program, too.
- **Disabilities represented:** physical, sensory, cognitive, temporary, permanent, mild and acute conditions – a full range of diagnoses.

Types of bikes used: Hand cycles, foot pedaled, trikes, tandems, recumbents are provided by DCR and other organizations or brought to the trail by individual users.

- **Width of all bikes used:** Maximum 4 ft. width. Size is limited by current trail lane widths.
- **Range of turning radii required for all bikes currently used:** 5 ½ ft. to 18 ft.
- **Recommended diameter of turn-around areas for adaptive bikes:** 22-25 ft.; based on 11 ft. turning radius required by the widest turning bike owned by DCR UA program.

Trail issues: Some trouble spots to address include edge of trail pavement drop-offs of an inch or more, roots and other pavement hazards such as glass, cautionary language on signs or pavement is oriented to those who drive cars but not children, lack of pullover spots, lack of benches, steep side slopes from trail, poison ivy and need for a staging area to host program events.

Adaptive Cycling Rentals

A local bike shop, Trailside Bicycles has two hand cycles and one wheelchair tandem that can be rented during their hours of operation. Trailside Bicycles is located at 8 Railroad Street, Hadley, MA

department of
Conservation and Recreation

dcr



Universal Access Program

Accessible Cycling Program

on the Norwottuck Rail Trail

For persons with disabilities, their family members and friends

Facilitated by All Out Adventures and Child & Family's Disability Resource Program



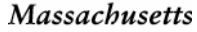
Fridays, June 6 – September 26

Near Trailside Bicycles, 8 Railroad Street, Hadley

12 - 5pm

**Adaptive Bicycles Available
In Adult and Child Sizes**

Pre-registration is required!
To register, call 413-527-8980
No fees, seats are limited!



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Your input is invited and much appreciated. This sheet is provided for your written comments. Please return written comments to a COMMENT BOX at the meeting or mail them to the address on the other side of this page.

Please visit our project web page at www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/norwottuck and participate in the ***ON-LINE Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation Pre-Design Trail User Survey.***

The final date for receipt of written comments from this meeting is December 1, 2008.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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3. Staple together.

2. Fold back.

Place
Your
Stamp
Here

Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation Project
Attn: Robbin Bergfors
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
PO Box 66
South Carver, MA 02366

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